The Wobbly Oscillator

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

June 2019 Volume 49 Number 6

June Means Field Day

Ron Borkey, K8VJG, Elected Honorary Member

From The Prez

Field Day

Field Day is only three weeks away. The CARS Field Day team has been working hard behind the scenes preparing for this year's event. Besides setting up the stations and antennas, there are many, many details that need to be taken care of. There is the necessary logistical support, including generators, a water supply, nighttime lighting, signs, the wireless logging network, sign in sheets, and of course, food, soft drinks, and coffee, which must be addressed. The "Bonus Points" require another set of tasks. Preparing media publicity, forming a fully equipped safety crew, composing an educational activity, setting up alternate energy and satellite stations, planning message handling, inviting youngsters to operate, posting on social media, building a public information display, inviting elected officials and first responders to attend are all tasks that must be performed. There are many other details too numerous to mention that must be taken care of.

All we ask is for members to attend the event and enjoy themselves. Every year when it's all over the Field Day team members always ask, "Why didn't more people show up." That's the million dollar question. With the hours and hours and hours of hard work that go into the preparation for Field Day and the follow up chores the team zealously handles, and asking nothing in return, it seems fitting more members would attend to offer support, just sit down and play radio, or eat for free. Let's hope this year will be different. Let's hope members come out and show Seven Hills and the rest of the world what an active club we have.

Hamvention Bus a Roaring Success

I've never heard so many favorable comments as we received for the Hamvention bus this year. The words "next year" were overheard more than a few times, and always in a positive sense; like "let's make sure we get the same bus and driver next year." Early on, we weren't sure we were going to have a bus this year.

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Well I can say this now; we will certainly have a bus in 2020. During the days following the trip, I received a bunch of emails thanking CARS for providing the bus to the Hamvention. The demographics were kind of interesting too. We had new hams, old hams, ladies, gentlemen, CARS members, an almost equal amount of non-members, and two very well behaved representatives of the canine persuasion. For me, the best part of the whole deal was meeting some new friends and getting to know some mild acquaintances better. It was a good ride.

73, Toby, WT8O

CARS banner adorned the bus at the Hamvention

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society
May 14th 2019 Business Meeting Minutes

The CARS membership was called to order by President Toby Kolman, WT8O, at 7:30 PM on the 14th day of the month at the Busch Community room. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and introductions were made by the members and guests. The April 9th, 2019 Business meeting minutes were approved as they appeared in the May 2019 *Wobbly Oscillator.*

Toby, thanked the Veterans in attendance for their service. Please send your *WO* contributions to Toby. Articles for sale should also be included.

The June, July, and August CARS meetings will be in the Brecksville Metroparks at the Harriet Keeler Pavilion.

Bob, W8GC, gave the report on the treasury balance. Bob also reminded the group to please pay your Club dues if you have not already done so. Bob mentioned that the Club receives proceeds from anything purchased through Amazon Smile. CARS scholarship applications are due by the end of the month. Call Bob if you have any questions.

The following were approved as NEW members of CARS at tonight's meeting. They are graduates of the recent CARS training class on April 11th and VE session on May 12th, 2019.

Shauna Welch – KE8MAC
Richard Lukich – KE8MAD
Connie Sheehan – KE8MAE
Jim Kovach – KE8MAF
Steve Koscick – KE8MAG
Kathy Hogan – KE8MAH
John Dernar – KE8MAI
Mark Hass - *
Eric Schreiber - *
Dan Angyal - *

*Call sign not yet issued.

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Honorary Members

Any person who by nature of outstanding or meritorious contribution to the furtherance of amateur radio and the ideals of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

Robert Check, W8GC
Elected 2/10/15

Thomas Wayne, WB8N
Elected 1/10/17

Dwaine Modock, K8ME, SK
Elected 5/9/17

Toby Kolman, WT8O
Elected 10/10/17

Jerry Smith, NW9H
Elected 5/8/18

Ron Borkey, K8VJG
Elected 5/14/19

Mark, WJ8WM, mentioned that you may renew your ARRL dues through CARS. The club receives a portion on dues renewals as well as new members. Mark also asked for volunteers for the Seven Hills Memorial Day parade.

Toby stated that there is still room on the Hamvention bus. The bus information is on the CARS website. Get your money to Toby if you are interested. Toby mentioned that if anyone had program ideas to get them to Bill, KD8QBB. Joe, KD8BAL, volunteered to give Bill a hand with the presentations.

Arp, K8ARP, mentioned that the "Color Run" running event will be July 7th. If you are interested in volunteering let Arp know. All Public Service events are listed on the Cuyahoga County ARES site at www.ccares.us. Access the calendar for details. The Cleveland Marathon is still seeking volunteers for May 18th and 19th.

Metro, W8MET, stated that the VE session on May 12th resulted in one NEW Technician, three Generals and 1 Extra Class license.

Toby thanked the Refreshment Committee for all their work.

Larry, N8OWS, had nothing to report.

The Tech committee had a meeting just prior to the Business meeting and reported that Internet installation was ongoing at the Brecksville repeater location.

There was no old business this evening.

Bob, W8GC, made a motion with a second from Mark to nominate Ron Borkey, K8VJG, as an Honorary Member of CARS. The motion passed unanimously.

Field Day this year is June 22nd and 23rd. The location is Calvin Park in Seven Hills. Field Day Tee shirts are $17.95. Toby said he would buy them at Hamvention. Let Toby know if you would like a shirt.

There were 35 members and guests in attendance this evening.

George, K8KR, won the 50/50 raffle this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

The presentation this evening was by Dave, KD8ACO, on the subject of "Raspberry PI"

Submitted by Larry Shimerka, N8OWS.

Welcome New Members

Dan Angyal, KE8MJG

Mark Haas, KE8MJH

Eric Schreiber, KE8MJI

Peep from the Veep
June 2019
Mark, WJ8WM

I was explaining to friend the other day about Field Day. She was aquite interested Seven Hills resident and thought she might stop by and see for herself. I told all are welcome and we would even get her on the air!

She said she wouldn't know where to start. I told her our hobby has unique helpers called "Elmers" and they would be happy to help her make a contact. I explained how we mentor, assist, and encourage hams, especially new operators. I could explain all the ways these wonderful patient people help out. Then she asked the question "Why are they called Elmers?"

I looked at her with a blank expression and replied "I don't know" This is how I got to this article. Maybe many of you know but for you that don't, the general consensus is:

The term "Elmer"--meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams--first appeared in *QST* in a March 1971 "How's DX" column by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD, (now also VA3ZBB). Newkirk called them "the unsung fathers of Amateur Radio." While he probably was not trying to coin a term at the time, here's how Newkirk introduced "Elmer" in his column and, as it turned out, to the rest of the Amateur Radio world:

"Too frequently one hears a sad story in this little nutshell: 'Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest.'"

Sometimes "Elmers" help the newcomer to understand the rules, taking the test to get their first license, and sometimes as an advisor to the hobby. But most importantly an "Elmer" is a **friend** in the world of amateur radio.

Now I know the story!

[Parts of this article were taken from the ARRL website and the internet by W9VCL]

June Net Sked

JUN	5	K8RJH
JUN	12	KD8ACO
JUN	19	WT8O
SEP	26	N8OWS

Nets are run every Wednesday at 9:00 PM on 146.820 (Pl 110.9)

June Birthdays

Scott Smith, AC8NW	6/6/61
Joe Ulaszewski, KD8BAL	6/21/50
Kathy Hogan, KE8MAH	6/22
Lou Iganczak, N8PZK	6/24

2-Meter Slot-Cube Antenna an Easy Build
Part 2

Andy, KD8SCV
Joe, KD8BAL

In the May issue of the *WO*, Joe Ulaszewski, KD8BAL, and I gave a brief overview of our experience building a 2-meter slot cube antenna described on page 35 of the January 2019 issue of *QST* magazine. The design offers easy construction, simple deployment, omnidirectional performance comparable to a 2-meter J-pole, low SWR (see Figure 2), and compactness. John Portune, W6NBC, the antenna's designer and author of the article, also reports higher efficiency (see Figure 3).

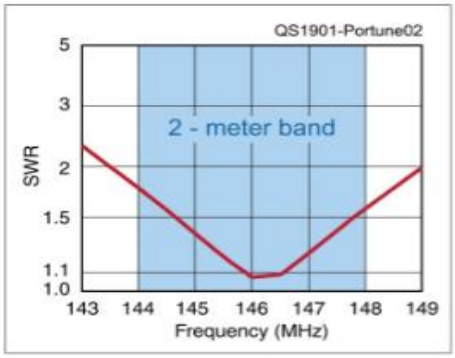

Figure 2 — SWR plot of the slot-cube antenna.

Figures 2 and 3 appear on page 36 of January 2019 "QST" and are reproduced with permission of ARRL.

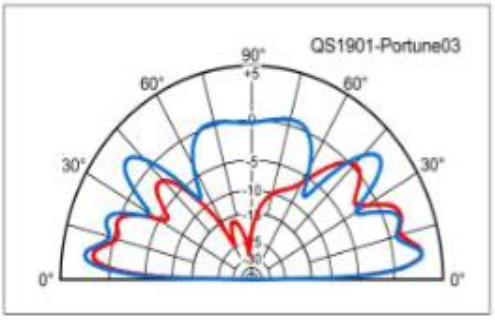

Figure 3 — Vertical radiation plot of the slot-cube antenna (blue) compared with a **J**-pole antenna (red).

Our first attempt, antenna #1, yielded an SWR of around 1.8 to 1 with the antenna's "sweet spot" SWR (about 1.2 to 1), being around three MHz *above* the CARS 2-meter frequency of 146.82 MHz. Mind you, we followed a drawing which included dimensions on the drawing itself, details not appearing in the original article.

Although we did receive a clear signal report using antenna #1, Joe and I wanted to see a lower SWR. We found an interesting variation on the original design in ARRL's antenna forum, http://www.arrl.org/forum/categories/view/30, a site inside ARRL's website where operators can report experiences with different antenna designs. (The forum is another reason all amateur operators should join ARRL. There is a lot of *great* content.)

This second design's creator, Keith Lodge, K1TGF, Pembroke, NH, specifies somewhat longer vertical tubes (including the antenna's feed point tubes), to bring the SWR down. He also dispenses entirely with the CPVC coupling of the original design. Instead, the feed point tubes are drilled straight through and capped so as to allow use of 8-32 machine screws and nuts, thereby offering a far stronger mechanical and electrical connection.

We also chose to simply lash the antenna to a five-foot length of ¾ in. PVC, rather than permanently attach it as shown in the article. The RF choke is six turns of RG-58X coax used also as the pigtail.

Drilling feed point tube (a drill press and vee-block really help!)

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Cutting, preparing, and soldering the tubing for both antennas was relatively straight-forward. But, Joe and did I discover the importance of holding the gap between the feed point tubes as close as possible to 0.125 in. It is absolutely critical to this antenna's performance.

Heating/adjusting feed point tubes

Due to a measurement error in cutting the feed point tubes, our antenna had a gap of 0.198 in. after final assembly. When tested, we received tones back from the CARS repeater (and a few other 2-meter repeaters in our area), but no replies from other operators, even though the SWR was a bit lower than antenna #1.

So, believing we had only manufactured a great listening antenna, it was back to the shop for a little trouble-shooting. After heating and repositioning the feed point tubes to close them down to the .125 in. gap, (plus readjusting the RF choke slightly), SWR dropped to 1.28 to 1.

And, when tested our signal was heard loud and clear! After the final touch ups, we made a call and by coincidence, fellow CARS member Mike Mraz, KA8MZS, Seven Hills, happened to be on the air. He gave us a great report on our first call through the CARS 2-meter repeater—full copy, no background noise. We were using a Yaesu FT2DR HT set at 5W with the antenna elevated to a height of 12 ft.

Joe and were elated with the initial results and plan to do more testing in different environs. Most importantly, we had a lot of fun building this antenna (see the photos) and encourage other club members to give it a go. The materials to build the antenna alone are less the $20 and time required is a few hours. Feel free to talk to either one of us if you have questions.

(Left)
Finishing a solder joint.

(Right)
May 22, 2019 Success! KA8MZS, Seven Hills, gives a great signal report after our first call on two meters.

Dayton Hamvention 2019
Mentoring the Next Generation
David, KD8ACO

Fascinating! Absolutely Fascinating! It was another great year for Hamvention at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio. I'm told that last year's Hamvention was enjoyed by 28,417 attendees (the third largest attendance since Hamvention began in 1952) and that the numbers for this year's show are expected to be larger.

The volunteers that make Hamvention possible continued to make adjustments and additions to this must-see event. The total number of forums increased from 57 last year to 62 this year. These forums appeared to be very well attended, especially the eight forums which I was fortunate enough to attend. The fifth forum room was located in a larger tent than last year's and was moved from the lawn to a corner of the parking lot.

A free mobile event app was available this year for both Apple and Android devices. This app mirrored the content in the printed program, but the app was interactive and was being updated throughout the event, including the hourly prize drawing winners. The 2 meter simplex bulletin transmission was provided again this year, but this information was also available on a new 1620 KHz AM broadcast.

There were numerous alterations to the offsite and onsite parking. Closer paved and gravel offsite parking options were added this year. Also, the offsite parking bus drop-off location was moved closer to the main gate. This allowed for the elimination of the tractor pulled people movers. Instead, more golf carts were utilized this year. They were numerous and convenient.

The weather this year was warm, but more importantly, dry! I had my doubts on Thursday evening when it poured. However, Friday was overcast with a light breeze, which dried things out quickly. The additional gravel added in the flea market area made for easy travel while trolling the multitude of offerings. Saturday was warmer with full sun, making for a nice day to visit the indoor vendors and having some eyeball QSOs, while relaxing in the shade. Sunday was well attended with the new feature of free admittance for those living in the local area, providing a way of seeing what draws close to 30,000 devotees to their corner of the world each year.

Every year, I try to focus on a new and different opportunity to do at Hamvention. This year, I toured the Voice of America Museum on Thursday evening and the WLW transmitter site on Saturday evening. Both tours were hosted by the West Chester Amateur Radio Association, WC8VOA. I highly recommend both of these tours. The private tour of the iconic 1930's WLW 500 kW AM transmitter was truly fascinating.

Hope to see you at Hamvention 2020. Mark your calendars now for May 15, 16 & 17, 2020. I have already made my hotel reservation. Have you?

Until next time,

73 de David KD8ACO

Bob, K8RGI, and "Hammy"

Ron Borkey Sr., K8VJG
Elected Honorary CARS Member
Toby, WT8O

At the May CARS monthly meeting, Bob Check, W8GC, nominated Ron Borkey Sr., K8VJG, to join the list of CARS Honorary Members. A brief discussion listed Ron's not so brief list of contributions to the club and amateur radio. He was unanimously elected.

Ron is a longtime CARS member serving at various officer positions and a Board member over the years. He was a VE team member. Whether it was Field Day, a ham radio demonstration at a local school, a lighthouse station, the Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air, a school amateur radio club, the radio shack at the Mather, the Metroparks Zoo, or just about anywhere a transmitter was transmitting, Ron was there, mike in hand.

Ron is an avid mobile DXer. He contacted many a country from the driver's seat of his Ford. He's also done a lot of DXing from his basement shack at his home in North Royalton. Anyone who has ever been to Ron's QTH has had to admire the tower and antenna in his backyard at one of the highest elevations in the area.

Ron belongs to several local radio clubs and is well known to many, many hams. He worked at the Ford Engine Plant in Cleveland for many years. Often times, I run into a veteran Ford employee and chances are they knew Ron.

There is probably an elite group of hams around the world that Ron can rub elbows with, but I would bet my last buck nary a one could outmatch his wit. Ron is one of the funniest people I have had the pleasure of being around. If he hadn't of made a career as an electrician at Ford, Ron could have found a place with Second City or Monty Python.

I met Ron when I joined CARS in early 2002 when I got my ticket, but I really got to know him at Field Day that year. We worked together for hours, and enjoyable ones they were. Besides having fun, I learned an awful lot from Ron about HF operation and contesting. After that, all I wanted to do was learn the code, get my General and get on HF.

I'm sure I speak for the entire club congratulating Ron on his achievement of being elected to the roll of Honorary Members.

(Left) The VE exams in progress

VE Session
Toby, WT8O

The CARS May VE session brought three new hams into the Amateur Radio Service. Mark Haas, KE8MJH; Eric Schreiber, KE8MJI; and Dan Angyal, KE8MJG passed their Technician exams becoming licensed amateurs and CARS members. We welcome Mark, Eric, and Dan into the ham radio hobby and CARS. Kathy Hogan, KE8MAH upgraded to General and Chuck Sisia, KE8ASN passed his Extra exam. Congratulations to all.

[Continued next page]

Special thanks to our outstanding VE team, capably led by Metro, W8MET, and consisting of Gary, NI8Z; Larry, N8OWS; George, K8KR; Joel, K8SHB; Dave, NF8O; and Darren, K8DMT.

The next VE testing session will be held Sunday, July 14th, at 9:00 AM at the Old Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 Pete Wisniesky Parkway, Independence 44131. Directions and a map are on the CARS website homepage. For information or an appointment please contact Metro, W8MET, at 216-520-1320 or metro351@sbcglobal.net As always, walk-ins are welcome.

Thanks to our outstanding VE team

Memorial Day Parade
Toby, WT8O

Once again the CARS crew stepped up and assisted the city of Seven Hills and the VFW with the annual Memorial Day Parade. The weather was near perfect and the event went off without a hitch. Club members planted numbered flags around the perimeter if the staging area signifying where each of the 32 groups marching would assemble. The CARS team directed the snarled incoming traffic into an orderly pattern and organized parking. Naturally, the hams used HTs on simplex VHF to communicate.

CARS is a Recognized Organization by Seven Hills. The city is kind enough to allow us to use City Hall facilities for our annual licensing classes and Calvin Park for Field Day at no charge.
We are also proud Mayor Rick Dell 'Aquila, KD8SCT, is a member of our fine club. Special thanks to Mark Moro, WJ8WM, the former Seven Hills Building Commissioner, who did a splendid job of organizing and directing the CARS support crew. Mark is also instrumental in coordinating the activities between Seven Hills and CARS.

Hats off to the other CARS members who helped out with the parade: Larry, N8OWS; Scott, AC8NW; Eddie, KD8FTS; Toby, WT8O; Arp, K8ARP; and Andy, KD8SCV.

The CARS volunteers whose coordinated efforts made the Seven Hills Memorial Day parade run smoothly.

So Long Tony
Toby, WT8O

One of the best parts of being a CARS member is making new friends. I felt fortunate to meet and befriend Tony Smith, KE8IHP. Tony is one heck of a good guy. He usually has a smile on his face and a humorous way of putting things. Tony is very knowledgeable, with a background in electronics. As president of CARS it is sometimes frustrating when we can't get anyone to help out with certain necessary responsibilities. Tony was the opposite. He would frequently ask "What do you need?" or "What can I do to help?"

Tony recently moved to Phoenix. He certainly will be missed, and impossible to replace. I will connect with him when I visit Arizona to visit my family. I hope Tony is able to check into our weekly nets via EchoLink. This is another reason for our repeater system needs to incorporate EchoLink. Best of luck Old Man, and we'll see you down the log.

Hara Arena Severely Damaged
Toby, WT8O

The devastation from the Memorial Day tornados in the Dayton area caused major damage to the Hara Arena, a landmark familiar to hams worldwide, which hosted the annual Hamvention for decades. Many of us spent numerous enjoyable hours perusing the exhibits from manufactures and vendors inside the building and the marketplace in the outdoor flea market. It hurts to see the once proud structure damaged so severely.

Even though the Hamvention moved to Greener pastures a few years ago, we still have a soft spot for the building that housed so many memories. The future of the one-time ballroom built by brothers **HA**rry and **RA**lph seems to be up in the air. Whatever it may be, amateurs around the world will be in the know, informed by radio signals and jungle drums.

(Left)
An aerial view of the Hara Arena after the Memorial Day tornados struck.

"EDUCATION IS WHAT REMAINS AFTER ONE HAS FORGOTTEN WHAT ONE HAS LEARNED IN SCHOOL."

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Radiosport

Contests

June 1 1200 - June 2 1200 **SEANET CONTEST** 3.5-28 CW Ph www.seanet2019.com
Exchange: RST, serial

June 15 1800-June 15 2359 **ARRL Kids Day** 3.5-28 Ph www.arrl.org/kids-day
Exchange: Name, age, QTH, favorite color

June 22 1800 –J une 23 2100 **ARRL Field Day** All Bands CW Ph Dig ww.arrl.org/field-day
Exchange: Number of transmitters, operating class, ARRL/RAC section or "DX"

Special Events Stations

June 1 - June 2 0001-2359 **NJ2BB** Camden, NJ. Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station. **Museum Ships Weekend** 14.262 14.040 7.262 7.040 www.nj2bb.org

June 5 - June 9 1200-1700 **K5TUP** Tupelo, MS. Tupelo Amateur Radio Club. **Elvis Presley Festival Special Event**. CW, FT8, SSB All Bands www.tupeloarc.org

June 29 – July 10 1200-05 **WO4L** East Berlin, PA. **156th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg** 14.275 3.830 7.185 1.930 www.qrz.com/db/wo4l

State QSO Parties

June 1 1400 - June 2 0200 **Kentucky QSO Party** 1.8-144 CW Ph Dig www.kyqsoparty.org
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC (State or Province)

June 15 1600-June 16 0400 **West Virginia QSO Party** 3.5-28 CW Ph Dig gsl.net/wvsarc/wvqp/wvqp.html
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC

Sampling from *QST* June 2019 Pg. 86, 97, and 98, see *QST* for many more events.

All times in GMT ZULU time

The *Wobbly Oscillator* is a publication of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, Ohio, 44131-0264. Articles from this publication may be reprinted in any ham radio publication, provided that credit is given to this publication and the author, if known. All submissions should be emailed to: wt8o@att.net by the end of the month for publication in the next month's issue.

CARS 2019 Officers & Committees

Audit
WJ8WM ** WT8O, KD8OUE

Audio/Video
AC8NW **

ARRL Liaison
WJ8WM **

Awards
W8GC ** WT8O

Christmas party & Summer Picnic
KD8SCV **, WJ8WM, K8ARP

Club Photographer
N8OWS **

Field Day
WT8O **, WJ8WM, K8RGI, K8ARP, KD8SCV, AC8NW, AC8TN, N8BBB food

50/50
WT8O

License classes
KD8ACO **, WT8O, K8SHB

Media Representative
KD8SCV

Membership
WT8O ** KE8IHP

NET
WT8O **

Newsletter
WT8O ** 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

Programs at Meetings
KD8QBB ** KD8BAL

Property Custodian's
KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

Public Services
K8ARP ** KD8FTS

QSL Manager - W8HBI, W8BM
WB8N **

Refreshments at Meetings & Picnic
KD8SCV ** pop, AI8Y ** coffee,
NW8X ** Donuts

Scholarship
W8GC ** WJ8WM, KD8SCV, N8OWS, WB8N

Sunshine (welfare)
Andy, KD8SCV ** 440-886-0723

Technical
AC8NW ** N8OVW, WJ8WM, KD8ACO, KD8RKF, K8MD, KB8DTC

VE Exams
Metro, W8MET ** 216-520-1320

Web Master/e-mail
W8GC **
** chairman or co-chairman

2019 Officers

PRESIDENT
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wt8o@att.net

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Alternate Secretary: Ed Stevens, WB8ROK

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even year executive board 2 year term
K8SHB, KB8DTC, KD8OUE

odd year executive board 2 year term
KD8SCV, K8ARP, WB8ROK

License trustee K8ZFR
WT8O

License trustee
W8HBI, W8BM,
W8GC

May 15, 2019